

**REMARKS**

In response to the restriction requirement set forth in the Office Action dated March 1, 2004, Applicant hereby elects, with traverse, the Group I claims (claims 19-21) drawn to polypeptides. Applicant has amended claim 1 to incorporate the limitation of claim 19 and cancelled claim 19 accordingly, so that elected claim 19 does not depend on a non-elected claim. Claims 2-9 have been amended accordingly to refer to the polypeptide of amended claim 1. In addition, claims 22, 25 and 28 have been amended to depend on claim 1. All other non-elected claims have been cancelled. No prohibited new matter has been added by way of this amendment.


In addition, the Examiner is respectfully requested to examine one or more of Groups IV, V and VII, since the claims of these Groups, as amended, require use of the claimed polypeptide. In the event that the Examiner chooses not to examine Groups IV, V and VII, upon allowance of the protein claims, Applicant respectfully requests rejoinder of these claims to the extent that a method of using a novel protein is also novel.

For clarification purposes, Group IV is directed to a method of screening for a chemical agent that modulates Hairless-mediated transcription in vitro, not in vivo as described in the Office Action.

If the Examiner has any questions concerning the above election or the application in general, the Examiner may contact the undersigned at his convenience.

Favorable action on the merits is requested.

Respectfully submitted,  
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